

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, original claims 1-10 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE97/01594. This Preliminary Amendment further cancels claims 1-10 in the revised pages in the Annex to the International Preliminary Examination Report, and adds new claims 11-30. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

The above amendments to the drawing, specification and abstract conform the drawing, specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules, and do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE97/01594 includes an International Search Report, dated April 7, 1998. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were uncovered in the underlying PCT Application. A copy of the Search Report is included herewith. Also enclosed is a translation of the Search Report.

The underlying PCT Application also includes an International Preliminary Examination Report, dated December 10, 1998. A copy of the International Preliminary Examination report and corresponding annex is included herewith. Also enclosed is a translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report and the annex.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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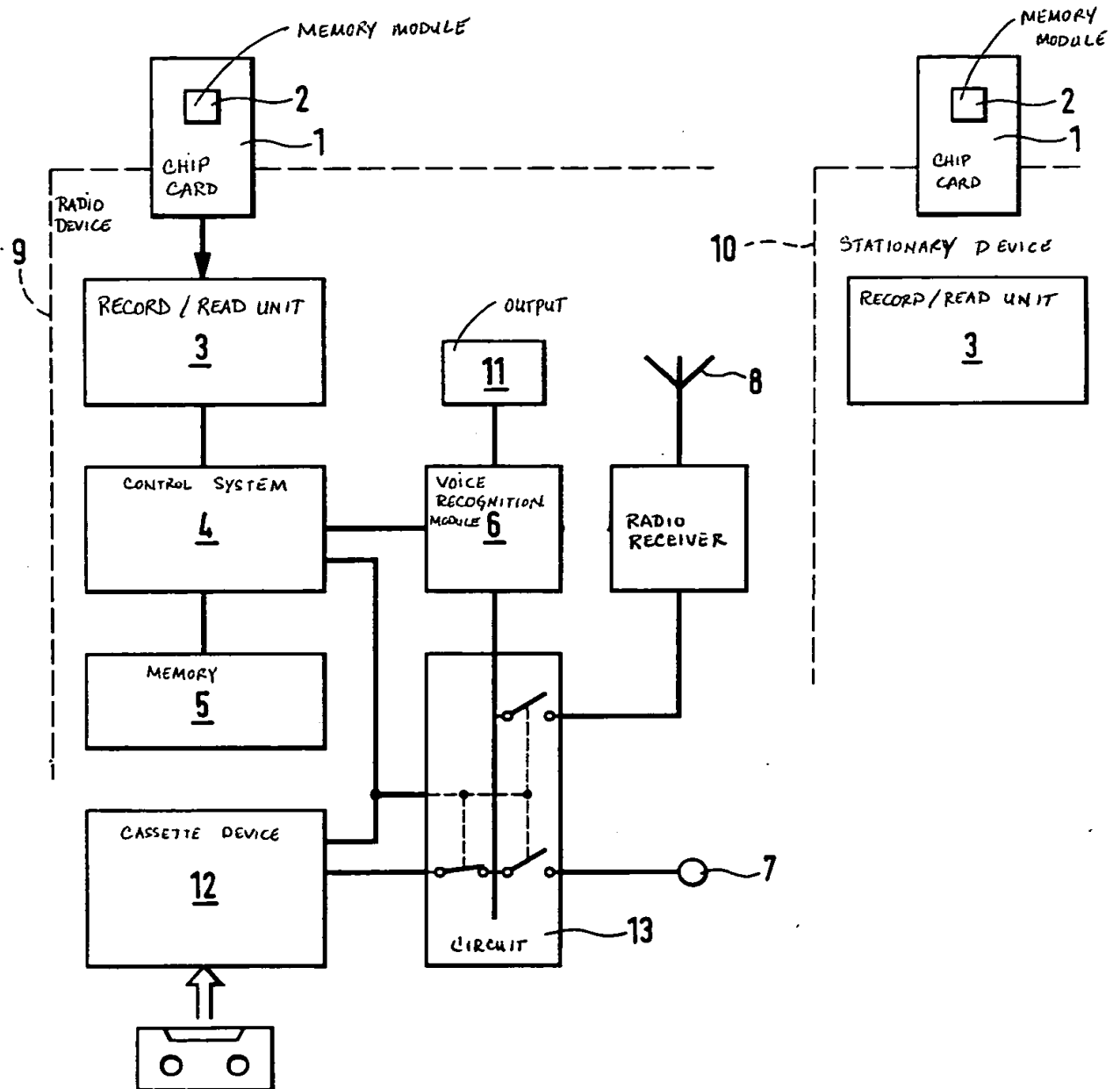


FIG. 1